

diseases—is one of the greatest public health challenges we face in this country, particularly as our population ages and thus becomes more susceptible to cancer. If we are to meet this challenge, if we are to take full advantage of the many opportunities presented by the exciting discoveries of basic science in recent years, and if we are to fulfill the promise of quality cancer care for all our citizens, it will require visionary and energetic leadership. That kind of leadership has been provided for more than a decade by my friend and constituent, Dr. Joseph S. Bailes. Dr. Bailes is currently the Executive Vice President of Clinical Affairs at US Oncology, the largest private oncology practice in the United States.

Dr. Bailes has recently completed more than a decade of service to the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO), which is the leading medical professional society for physicians involved in cancer treatment and research. Under the public policy guidance of Joe Bailes, ASCO has been involved in almost all significant legislative and regulatory initiatives during this past decade of great change in the health care delivery system generally and in cancer care specifically.

During Dr. Bailes' long tenure as Chair of ASCO's Clinical Practice Committee, he was confronted with various challenges, each of which posed a threat to quality cancer care. Among

Dr. Bailes also served as President of ASCO, the first in more than 20 years to be elected as a community oncologist rather than an academic. His election reflected widespread recognition within the cancer community of Dr. Bailes' important and diverse contributions to oncology beyond considerations of reimbursement or coverage for the private physician. His voice has been a powerful one for everybody with cancer, as well as for the professionals who care for them.

Aside from these public policy activities, I also commend Dr. Bailes for his dedication and skill as a physician who cares for individual patients in a thoughtful and compassionate manner. In fact, Dr. Bailes has successfully treated members of my own family for cancer-related illnesses and I am grateful for his dedicated service to patients in the Houston area. I know no one better at cancer diagnosis and treatment than Dr. Bailes, and his motivation is not public acclaim but the welfare of his patients. This is the ideal we expect of all our doctors.

This May Dr. Bailes will be recognized and honored by the National Coalition for Cancer Survivorship (NCC), the largest national organization advocating on behalf of people with all kinds of cancer. The occasion will be the 37th Annual meeting of ASCO in San Francisco, where colleagues from all over the world will assemble to hear the latest developments in cancer prevention, diagnosis, and treatment. It is fitting that Dr. Bailes will be individually honored in this impressive context.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Dr. Bailes on his many years of service in the fight against cancer and for his many achievements. He is an inspiration to all advocates against cancer, whether they are patients or former patients, parents or friends of cancer patients, the physicians or other health professionals who treat them, or the research organizations that seek improved cancer therapies.

RECOGNIZING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MAINE ADMINISTRATORS OF SERVICES FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

### HON. JOHN ELIAS BALDACCI

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 8, 2001*

Mr. BALDACCI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 25th Anniversary of the Maine Administrators of Services for Children with Disabilities, or MADSEC. MADSEC has been a leader in the provision of educational and support services to children with disabilities in Maine since 1976. In that time, Maine has developed a model program which benefits the children of my state in many ways.

Maine was unique among several states in the development of special education services. From its earliest days, MADSEC has maintained an open and positive working relationship with the Maine Department of Education's Special Services Division. By collaborating with the state agency, MADSEC has been able to help effectively address concerns, issues, and complaints in a productive manner which eventually helps all parties involved find a reasonable outcome.

In addition to its problem-solving function, MADSEC has been a joint-sponsor of several successful Professional Development training opportunities for administrators, teachers, and support staff. The "Select Seminars" offered by MADSEC and the Special Services Division are intensive work sessions which focus professional attention and problem-solving skills on some of the most troublesome issues in the special education arena.

MADSEC also publishes a professional journal for special education administrators and staff which has provided consistent information and commentary on many issues. Members can access a website for instant information, professional resources, and the latest news in the field.

On a national level, MADSEC sponsors the annual Maine Director's Academy, a professional development and policy study event for special education administrators from across the country. Special educators from more than 30 states and Canadian Provinces have attended in the Academy's 20-year history, and the Academy has been recognized by several national professional organizations.

I am proud to bring the anniversary of this important organization to the attention of Congress here today. The children of Maine and the nation have benefitted greatly from the leadership provided by MADSEC over the last 25 years. I look forward to continuing advances in special education administration and technology that groups such as MADSEC will facilitate. Children with disabilities must not be forgotten or allowed to fall behind. For the last 25 years, members of the Maine Administrators of Services for Children with Disabilities have worked to ensure such children get every chance they can to succeed. I thank them for a quarter-century of fine work, and look forward to their next 25 years.

HONORING WESTERN STATE COLLEGE GRADUATES, RICHARD AND GRACE NUGENT

### HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 8, 2001*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate two Western State College graduates. Richard and Grace Nugent will graduate in May with degrees in art and English. But they are not your typical grads. Richard is going on 69 and Grace will soon turn 64 years old.

Richard and Grace have been students at WSC since 1998. Grace attended college for the first time, while Richard is finishing his education, which was cut short in the 1950's. "We've always had some kind of goal—some kind of plan we were working towards," Grace said in a recent Denver Post article. "A lot of people our age figure they're done. We continually have something to look forward to."

Richard and Grace had been operating a bed and breakfast in Crawford, Colorado when they decided they needed a new challenge. They were not your ordinary nontraditional students. Instead of just attending classes, Richard and Grace decided to immerse themselves in the college experience. They moved into the dorms, ate college food and hit the hot college hang outs on Friday nights. "They blend in well. They seem to belong," said Robert Sewell, a student who works out with Richard.

"This is so great," Richard said. "Have you ever been in nursing homes? They're just sitting there. But look around here, there is life here." After graduation, Richard and Grace will start their new careers as English teachers in China.

Mr. Speaker, it is great to see two people so far along in life return to their youth. I want to congratulate Richard and Grace Nugent on their graduation and wish them all the best teaching English in China. I know they will put forth the same effort and enthusiasm with their new career as they did in college.

Richard and Grace, job well done!

### TRIBUTE TO ENSIGN RICHARD J. BENSING

### HON. JIM DAVIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 8, 2001*

Mr. DAVIS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Ensign Richard J. Bensing, a member of the U.S. Navy EP-3 aircraft crew who was detained on the island of Hainan, China, last month following their harrowing collision with a Chinese F-8 fighter.

Yesterday, I had the pleasure of joining more than 200 people in welcoming Ensign Bensing back to his alma mater, Brandon High School, in my hometown of Hillsborough